

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3 will remain pending in the application. Claims 12-15 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of January 13, 2005, the Examiner stated that claims 1-3 were allowed. Since all other claims will have been canceled upon entry of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, upon entry of this amendment. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

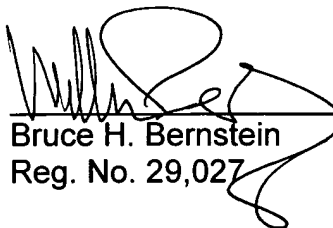
Applicants note that the status of the application is after final, and recognize that Applicants do not have a right to amend after a final rejection has been issued. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the amendment does not raise any new issues, and clearly places the application in condition for allowance.

Thus, entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

P21131.A13

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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